





LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

PRENTICE, HENDERSON, & OSBORNE.

Green Street, between Third and Fourth.

GEORGE D. PRENTICE, Editor.

PAUL R. HENDERSON, Editor.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 3 A. M.

WORDS OF WARNING.—Yesterday we saw a

letter from a gallant and highly intelligent

officer, a citizen of Louisville, who is now in

the Army of the Cumberland. We make the

following extract:

It is a great mistake to discount entirely

the drills of the Louisville "Legion of De-

fence," for you may rest assured that the

cavalry will visit Louisville as soon as the

rain is over. Do, for Heaven's sake, urge this

matter in every way in your power. I am no

alarmist, but, when the rebels make any of-

fensive movements with their cavalry, your

city will be an object for attack. The Com-

mander might have drills once a week, and

the companies at least one night, and, with

such frequent tactics, the next time the re-

bel comes, "shoulder to shoulder!" feeling

not up among the corps, which is a valua-

ble in an emergency. I am not a lawyer,

but I can supply it; it is obtainable only by drill-

ing.

Warnings, direct and earnest warnings, like

this given by this young officer, have been

sent to us from various sources—in

two instances by rebel prisoners of rank who

seemed to see no reason for concealment.

Louisville has been for some time, and is now

an especial object of rebel rapacity. Within

the last four weeks, it has, in two or three in-

stances, made narrow escapes. Our military

authorities can judge what would have hap-

pened, if, when our alarm-bells rang at mid-

night a few weeks ago, a rebel force, even a

small one, had debased into our city. Hun-

dreds of warnings for preparation had been

given us, but no preparation had been made.

We all had reason to thank God that the

enemy did not know our weakness.

Of course we are not so weak now, but cer-

tainly we have not been so well prepared

before. When Morgan came lately into Ken-

tucky, the acknowledged rebel plan was,

that, in conjunction with an invading force

under Buckner, should at once capture Loui-

sville, but Buckner, most providentially for us,

was held back by the energetic and success-

ful advance of Gen. Rosecrans to Tullahoma.

It is generally true, that, in the case of us,

as we personally know from full rebel testi-

mony, Col. Scott came into Kentucky at the

head of a rebel force of about two thousand

men in pursuance of a distinctly arranged plan

that Gen. Wm. Preston should join him from

Abington, Va., at a designated point in this

State, and that the combined forces should

take possession of Louisville, but Preston

was held back by stress of circumstances, and

as a consequence, Scott was soon driven out

of our borders with heavy loss. But, we re-

peat, the whole rebel plan is bent for the pos-

session of Louisville as much as ever a day

was bent for the mark. Just as certainly as

the war lasts, an attempt to invade Louisville

with a formidable force will be made within

the next two months.

There is therefore with the intelligent and

gallant officer, who we quoted at the begin-

ning of these remarks, that it was a grave

mistake to discount the Louisville Legion of

Defence. The discounting was done, we have

good reason to say, not only against the

general sentiment of our population, but against

the judgment and feeling of the members of

the Legislature themselves. Some of these men,

no doubt, thought their drilling a little

severe (and possibly it was rather severe than

was absolutely necessary), yet all of them, or

at least all of the loyal portion of them, were

getting interested in it and pleased with it. A

true military ardor, approximating to martial

ambition, was rapidly growing up among

the men, and the members of the Legislature

if they had kept up their drills daily to this

time, or twice or even once per week, they

would now be in effective force for the defence

of the city, especially with the aid of the re-

fortifications that might and should ever be

constructed. We all know what a vast

advantage our city would have in the posses-

sion of the organization recently disbanded

would have been if it had been in existence

and well drilled when a fear was excited

among us that John Morgan and his men were

approaching. The bandit chief, God forgive

our authorities, could have come at any time

and captured our city, and, but for his want

of nerve, he would have done so. There was

no reason to suppose that he would have

done so, but he was threatened, the more

engine our authorities and a portion of our

people seem to be. This is one of the mys-

teries of human nature that we are wholly

unable to fathom. The Federal Government, for

its own sake, should protect Louisville with

the utmost care, even if it had no regard for

the interests of the population. For John

Morgan is in rebel possession, where would be

the base of supplies for the army of the Cum-

berland? And what would become of Ken-

tucky, all-important as she is to the maintenance

of the cause of the Union?

The Editor of the Democrat makes some

of his prelates in different counties, where,

he says, the Wickliffe forces were suppressed

by the authorities. He made two or three days

ago a similar assertion in regard to the Emi-

grance precinct in Henry county. He made it

very strongly, and he has not retracted it. Yet

the letter we published yesterday from the

clerk of the polls shows that every vote offered

there was for the Union, and that the Emi-

grance was not for all the title and vain and

rumors that fill the air like summer insects,

and, without giving them any examination

whatsoever, makes haste to gather them into his

columns.

Possibly an officer of the polls here and

there may have mistaken his duty, but we are

not sure that he would have done so, and we

are sure that he would have been severely

punished, which ought to have been received, were

it not for the fact that the Wickliffe forces

were not in the field, and that the Wickliffe

forces were not in the field, and that the Wick-

liffe-Harney vote by the sands. In this case,

those who complain of wrong are themselves

the wrong-doers.

We have seen men from scores of polls, and

their testimony is that they never saw an

election more free from all military interposi-

tion and more open to voters of all parties.

The fact, that tens of thousands of men notori-

ously intent upon getting up a rebellion

were permitted to raise force, and to be in

possession of Federal lands, is evidence of the

most extraordinary tolerance. In what State

or county or precinct of the rebel Confederacy

could men get up a ticket hostile to the Con-

federate Government and against the Wick-

liffe-Harney vote by the sands. In this case,

Col. Woodruff and his companions who were

so long kept prisoners at Richmond could

tell our rebel sympathizers something about

the men. They were kept at it and required to

be as lively as cats in hot ashes. Most of the

time they were employed in stemming tobacco,

with nothing to sleep on but boards bare

of everything but filth, and nothing to eat

except such scraps of food as a Virginia

gentleman would scorn to give to his

blacking dogs. And many were the rebel

sympathizers here, old associates of Col-

onel Woodruff, that we heard laughing

and giggling and cracking jokes at his

having got to a tobacco-stemmer. We

hope that John Morgan will be employed as

a tobacco-stemmer, and that the next time

he comes, "shoulder to shoulder!" feeling

not up among the corps, which is a valua-

ble in an emergency. I am not a lawyer,

but I can supply it; it is obtainable only by drill-

ing.

Warnings, direct and earnest warnings, like

this given by this young officer, have been

sent to us from various sources—in

two instances by rebel prisoners of rank who

seemed to see no reason for concealment.

Louisville has been for some time, and is now

an especial object of rebel rapacity. Within

the last four weeks, it has, in two or three in-

stances, made narrow escapes. Our military

authorities can judge what would have hap-

pened, if, when our alarm-bells rang at mid-

night a few weeks ago, a rebel force, even a

small one, had debased into our city. Hun-

dreds of warnings for preparation had been

given us, but no preparation had been made.

We all had reason to thank God that the

enemy did not know our weakness.

Of course we are not so weak now, but cer-

tainly we have not been so well prepared

before. When Morgan came lately into Ken-

tucky, the acknowledged rebel plan was,

that, in conjunction with an invading force

under Buckner, should at once capture Loui-

sville, but Buckner, most providentially for us,

was held back by the energetic and success-

ful advance of Gen. Rosecrans to Tullahoma.

It is generally true, that, in the case of us,

as we personally know from full rebel testi-

mony, Col. Scott came into Kentucky at the

head of a rebel force of about two thousand

men in pursuance of a distinctly arranged plan

that Gen. Wm. Preston should join him from

Abington, Va., at a designated point in this

State, and that the combined forces should

take possession of Louisville, but Preston

was held back by stress of circumstances, and

as a consequence, Scott was soon driven out

of our borders with heavy loss. But, we re-

peat, the whole rebel plan is bent for the pos-

session of Louisville as much as ever a day

was bent for the mark. Just as certainly as

the war lasts, an attempt to invade Louisville

with a formidable force will be made within

the next two months.

There is therefore with the intelligent and

gallant officer, who we quoted at the begin-

ning of these remarks, that it was a grave

mistake to discount the Louisville Legion of

Defence. The discounting was done, we have

good reason to say, not only against the

general sentiment of our population, but against

the judgment and feeling of the members of

the Legislature themselves. Some of these men,

no doubt, thought their drilling a little

severe (and possibly it was rather severe than

was absolutely necessary), yet all of them, or

at least all of the loyal portion of them, were

getting interested in it and pleased with it. A

true military ardor, approximating to martial

ambition, was rapidly growing up among

the men, and the members of the Legislature

if they had kept up their drills daily to this

time, or twice or even once per week, they

would now be in effective force for the defence

of the city, especially with the aid of the re-

fortifications that might and should ever be

constructed. We all know what a vast

advantage our city would have in the posses-

sion of the organization recently disbanded

would have been if it had been in existence

and well drilled when a fear was excited

among us that John Morgan and his men were

approaching. The bandit chief, God forgive

our authorities, could have come at any time

and captured our city, and, but for his want

of nerve, he would have done so. There was

no reason to suppose that he would have

done so, but he was threatened, the more

engine our authorities and a portion of our

people seem to be. This is one of the mys-

teries of human nature that we are wholly

unable to fathom. The Federal Government, for

its own sake, should protect Louisville with

the utmost care, even if it had no regard for

the interests of the population. For John

Morgan is in rebel possession, where would be

the base of supplies for the army of the Cum-

berland? And what would become of Ken-

tucky, all-important as she is to the maintenance

of the cause of the Union?

The Editor of the Democrat makes some

of his prelates in different counties, where,

he says, the Wickliffe forces were suppressed

by the authorities. He made two or three days

ago a similar assertion in regard to the Emi-

grance precinct in Henry county. He made it

very strongly, and he has not retracted it. Yet

the letter we published yesterday from the

clerk of the polls shows that every vote offered

there was for the Union, and that the Emi-

grance was not for all the title and vain and

rumors that fill the air like summer insects,

and, without giving them any examination

whatsoever, makes haste to gather them into his

columns.

Possibly an officer of the polls here and

there may have mistaken his duty, but we are

not sure that he would have done so, and we

are sure that he would have been severely

punished, which ought to have been received, were

it not for the fact that the Wickliffe forces

were not in the field, and that the Wickliffe

forces were not in the field, and that the Wick-

liffe-Harney vote by the sands. In this case,

those who complain of wrong are themselves

the wrong-doers.

We have seen men from scores of polls, and

their testimony is that they never saw an

election more free from all military interposi-







